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ST-2847

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Chief, Operations Division, PP

Date typed: 12 Aug 53

Deputy Director of Training (Special)

Waiver of Prerequisites for Advanced Courses

1. In reply to your request for comments regarding the memorandum for DD/TR(S) from C/EE/[ ] on the subject of waivers of prerequisites for advanced courses, my views on this matter are:

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a. The [ ] are quite clear on this point and the minimum training standards established by [ ] are based on a review by the Clandestine Services (not by OTR) of the training required to prepare personnel for specific projected assignments.

b. I do not consider it to be the function of Training to ascertain which personnel of the Clandestine Services have sufficient knowledge, background, or experience to qualify for the waiver of courses designated as prerequisites for advanced training. In my view, the primary responsibility of Training is to insure that the quality of basic, specialized, and advanced courses meets the requirements of the Clandestine Services. The Office of Training has only two reasons to be concerned with the problem of whether a specific person should take a specific course:

(1) The quality of training must not be impaired by admitting students who have too little intelligence background to profit from the advanced courses, and who therefore waste the class's time on elementary matters covered in the basic courses; and

(2) Limitations of space in many advanced courses dictate the admission of only those students who are well qualified by previous background and experience, and by the needs of their assignments.

c. In general it has been agreed by members of the Clandestine Services Training Committee and OTR that responsibility for the granting of waivers of prerequisite courses is implicit in the functions of the Senior Training Officers of FI, PP, and PM.

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2. With respect to paragraph 3 of the basic memorandum, in which comment is made on the relationship between the basic program and many of the advanced courses offered by TR(S), it is my view that except in rare instances wherein the individual has attained considerable knowledge and experience through a variety of operational assignments, the substantive elements of the basic program are essential if the trainee is to receive maximum benefit from the advanced courses offered by TR(S). But whether or not the material in a given basic course is essential to the understanding of a given advanced or specialized course, I believe you and I would agree that the basic courses are the least common denominator of all professional career jobs in the Clandestine Services. We have, of course, often departed from this standard in the past in order to meet emergencies, but I am convinced that it is in the Agency's interest to adhere as closely to the CS training standards as possible. For example, one must deplore the necessity for sending out a senior case officer [redacted]

[redacted] with no other training in this Agency than the four-week largely theoretical [redacted] Course. That was the result of the kind of emergency that continues to plague the Agency, but the solution is not a continual compromise with training and other standards. The solution lies only in reducing operations to a number and size for which we have sufficient qualified manpower.

[redacted]  
Deputy Director of Training (Special)

Attachment

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